



Community Updates

UNOLS Crewing Support Manager



Meegan Corcoran, UNOLS Crewing Support Manager. Photo Credit: Kathy Newell

One outcome of the Crewing Tiger Team's work was a recommendation to create a UNOLS Crewing Support Manager to focus on actions to address the crewing crisis we are experiencing in the Academic Research Fleet. The UNOLS Office, working with the University of Washington and with the support of NSF and ONR, created this new position as an addition to the UNOLS Office team. When advertised, the new position drew a great deal of interest with many qualified applicants. We are excited to announce the hiring of Meegan Corcoran as the new UNOLS Crewing Support Manager. There are many aspects of this newly created, and sure to be evolving, position. An important aspect of that is understanding how each ARF ship operator manages crewing processes (i.e. hiring, watch rotations, travel, pay, benefits, etc.). Meegan is already busy reaching out and meeting with ship operators and crews. She has already been on the road to participate in a job fair at Maine Maritime as she will also be very focused on recruiting mariners - making them aware of the awesome job opportunities that are available in the Academic Research Fleet. Welcome to the team Meegan!! Look to future newsletters for a new section we are calling "Crewing Corner" to stay up to date on all things crewing.

Committee News

SCOAR Meeting



Members of the SCOAR committee in front of the NSF LAOF Gulfstream. Pictured: Andrew Woogen, Hanumat Singh, Christopher Zappa, Britton Stephens, Alice Doyle, Michael Starek, and Armin Sorooshian. Photo Credit: Alice Doyle

The Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR) met in-person at the NSF sponsored NCAR facility in Boulder, Colorado. The agenda included agency and facility reports as well as scientific talks on oceanographic aircraft research. The meeting agenda as well as the presentations can be found [here](#). The meeting also included tours of the new NSF Research Aircraft Facility (RAF) as well as their Gulf stream scientific aircraft. More information on the NSF Large Aircraft Observing Facilities (LAOF) can be found [here](#). If you are interested in keeping up with the SCOAR's efforts, please email office@unols.org and ask to join the SCOAR Community listserv.

2022 UNOLS Fall Meeting Series

The UNOLS Fall meeting series is set to be in person in New Orleans, LA, the week of 14 November. We are excited to bring the committee back together. The schedule will be as follows:

- 15Nov - FIC Meeting
- 17Nov-AM - Council Meeting
- 17Nov-PM & 18Nov-AM - 2022 UNOLS Annual Meeting

Links to the agendas are in the Meetings section on the right. The meetings will be hybrid with both in person and virtual participation.

Fleet Highlights

HOV ALVIN Reaches 6500m Below the Surface



July 21, 2022: the ALVIN team on the deck of the R/V ATLANTIS after ALVIN's historic dive. The submersible reached 6,453 meters, its deepest dive ever. Photo Credit: Ken Kostel © Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The National Deep Submergence Facility (NDSF) operates HOV ALVIN, ROV JASON, and AUV SENTRY. This summer, ALVIN was certified to its new depth rating of 6500 meters, giving it access to 99% of the seafloor. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the dedication of the ALVIN Team and the continued support of the National Science Foundation (NSF). After the certification dives, Adam Soule (URI) and Anna Michel (WHOI) led a team of scientists and engineers, including many early-career participants, on the Science Verification Expedition (SVE) to the Puerto Rico Trench and to the Mid-Cayman Rise. This NSF-funded expedition on R/V ATLANTIS focused on testing ALVIN's ability to conduct science in the abyssal and upper hadal depths. To learn more about the new capabilities of HOV ALVIN and the SVE, we encourage you to visit go.who.edu/alvin-is-verified. The deep-sea science community is now welcome to submit proposals that make use of this fantastic new tool that enables in-person science at these newly accessible depths. To receive the quarterly, NDSF newsletter that will keep you informed of news from all our vehicle teams and the science they support, please visit: <https://ndsf.who.edu/sign-up-for-the-ndsf-newsletter>.

New Life for the R/V F. G. WALTON SMITH



New starboard engine, QSK-19 M, going through the soft patch on F.G. WALTON SMITH. Pictured: Captain Clay Dundas, Engine Installer Technician Ron Cheeseman (Maintenance Marine Plus), and Mate Alesha Gregoire. Photo Credit: Don Cuchiarra

The research vessel F.G. WALTON SMITH, operated by University of Miami, has had new life breathed into it with a full re-power. The 22 year old engines were replaced in kind with two Cummins QSK-19 M (IMO Tier II, EPA Tier 3 compliant), each producing 760 horsepower. The 96-foot vessel also replaced engine controls, winch controls, the entire exhaust system, and upgraded the POS-MV. The decision was made to conduct the work alongside at their facility versus going into a shipyard.

It was a huge success overall, but as with all maintenance periods, it did not go without challenges. Due to the onset of hurricane season in the Southeast, the delivery of the engines was scheduled for April, which would have given U of Miami ample time to complete the re-power. However, the two engines did not arrive until mid-July (over a month into hurricane season). This meant a "Plan B" had to be devised which included tugging the R/V SMITH upriver in the case of a storm. Fortunately, luck was on their side and they were able to stick with their original plan.

Additional challenges arose between loading the engines aboard, like lowering the engines into place, however the crew were able to find creative solutions which allowed them to stay on track. The engines were officially certified by Cummins on October 5th, which was just in time for R/V SMITH's first cruise post-repower with NOAA on October 8th. A huge Bravo Zulu to the crew and shoreside team of the R/V F.G. WALTON SMITH for their exemplary teamwork and ability to overcome challenges.

USCGC HEALY Reaches the North Pole



USCGC HEALY at the North Pole. U.S. Coast Guard. Photo Credit: Deborah Heldt Cordone, Auxiliary Public Affairs Specialist 1.

On September 30, 2022, the USCGC HEALY, her crew, and a team of NSF funded scientists reached the North Pole for the third time in the ship's career (and the second time unaccompanied). This is a significant accomplishment both for the ship and for US science.

The mission was conducted as part of the international Synoptic Arctic Survey Program (SAS). The team of scientists on board USCGC HEALY are funded by the National Science Foundation to measure key physical oceanographic, ecosystem, and carbon system parameters to establish a baseline for this region of the Arctic Ocean. The on-board team is comprised of SAS principal investigators as well as undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral investigators, technicians, marine mammal and seabird observers, and a photographer and includes both US and international scientists. Please see the story here for more information: <https://www.alaskanewsource.com/2022/10/05/coast-guard-largest-vessel-reaches-north-pole/>.

Featured Ship - R/V RACHEL CARSON



R/V Rachel Carson at the University of Washington Port. Photo Credit: Stefani Martynenko

- Name: R/V RACHEL CARSON
- Year Built: 2003
- Year Purchased: 2017
- Place Built: MacDuff Shipyard, Fraserborough, Scotland
- Science Berthing: 8
- Crew Berthing: 5
- Owner: University of Washington
- Operator: University of Washington
- Class of Vessel: Local

R/V RACHEL CARSON was purchased as the previous U.K. fisheries R/V AORA to replace the 60 year old R/V CLIFFORD A. BARNES thanks in large part to a generous gift by Beatrice and Bill Booth. After some initial modifications at its "birthplace" in Scotland the ship was moved to Victoria, BC via heavy lift ship transport for ultimate delivery to UW by its crew. UW has quickly expanded the ship's capabilities to better support more science. As a result, the ship has successfully supported a wide spectrum of scientific programs ranging from Alaska to Northern California in the past year.

Updates to MFP.us

Global and Ocean Class ships to use MFP For Cruise Planning in 2023

The ARF's use of MFP is slowly expanding. After working with the Global and Ocean class operators and cruise planners, we are pleased to roll out the Cruise Planning through MFP for these vessels in 2023. The hope is that the system will streamline the data flow of cruise planning information. Data is entered and available to the required stakeholders. Like all of our MFP roll-out, this is a work in progress. If you have suggestions or comments, feel free to pass them along to mfp@unols.org. Short MFP How-Tos (screenshare) can be found on the [MFP Science Tutorials](#) the [UNOLS Youtube channel](#). Suggestions for other How-Tos can be sent to mfp@unols.org.



PDF versions of the Newsletter can be found [here](#). To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!

Featured Photo



Photo Credit: UNOLS

Featured Photo

Pictured: Bob Houtman(NFS), Brian Midsen(NSF), Doug Russell(UNOLS), and Robert Kamphuis(UW) during R/V Thomas G. Thompson's recent NSF inspection.

Upcoming Events

2022 RVTEC Annual Meeting
01-03 Nov 2022
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

2022 FIC Fall Meeting
15 Nov 2022
Tulane River & Coastal Center
New Orleans, LA

2022 Council Fall Meeting
17 Nov 2022
Tulane River & Coastal Center
New Orleans, LA

2022 Annual Fall Meeting
18 Nov 2022
Tulane River & Coastal Center
New Orleans, LA

2022 MSROC Winter Meeting
11 Dec 2022
University Of Illinois - Chicago
Chicago, IL

2023 AIC Winter Meeting
11 Jan 2023
USCG Base Seattle
Seattle, WA

Did you know...

Cruise Planning Information

New to cruise planning? Visit the UNOLS [Cruise Planning Information](#) page to learn vital information about planning for cruises.

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UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to media@unols.org.

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